

Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes of

7/19/23

PRESENT: Tim Lovell, Erin O'Neill, Neil Lynch, Neil Reardon, Steve Ungerer and Jim Wilkinson.

Mr. Lovell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Minutes: Mr. Wilkinson made a motion to accept the minutes of 6/21/23 with amendments.

Mr. Lynch seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-1 (Mr. Ungerer abstained). Motion passes.

Trails Atkinson/Plaistow compared to Hampstead.

Mr. Lovell was contacted by Atkinson about the impact being made by the bikers building trails. Atkinson Conservation Commission will contact the trail creators. Atkinson is backing off building biking trails. There was a discussion about taking down the trail that is in Hampstead which is considered dangerous. Trails should be for walkers, dog walkers and bikers. Mr. Wilkinson mentioned the bike trail that has a drop off that would not be good for the average walker. It drops off a rock ledge and is not a through hiking trail. An area could be created for walkers to walk around the rock ledge. The Commission doesn't want these areas to get over built. Mr. Reardon said that there should be an assumption of risk for the participants concerning hiking trails. Mr. Wilkinson noted that there are some areas where three different trails are 10 feet apart and run parallel to each other and this is not necessary. Ms. O'Neill wondered if areas can be marked "for mountain bikes" to warn hikers.

Bridge Fixing Ideas

A bridge support broke in half near the waterfall on the West side. A quick repair can be done in September or October by sliding in a new 20-foot beam next to the old one. The bridge is in good shape otherwise.

Invasives

A lot of work was done on the invasives off West Road near the old foundation. Work was also started on the Bittersweet and Barberry. There are a lot of different invasives in that area. Mr. Lovell sent someone out to cut the Bittersweet but not the milkweed. The area will be cut twice next year. Mr. Reardon said that he believes this is all a waste of time.

Story Trail

Ms. O'Neill said that the story trail (Gruffalo) is ready to go. It will be for toddlers up to elementary aged children. The loop is a good length. You can always see the next signpost. She would also like a visitors' log.

Correspondence

The Commission received a complaint about water traveling down Shore Drive. The Stormwater Committee and Conservation will be present at the next Selectmen's meeting to discuss it. Mr.

Wilkinson said that the EPA handles Town Property. There aren't really any regulations for private property. The NHDES would apply to private land. This homeowner got in trouble previously with runoff from the property owner's land going into the lake.

Real estate items

The developer has invested approximately \$475K into the Hampstead Heights property. It consists of approximately 26 acres. The Board discussed line of credit opportunities similar to Kingston, which is managing the purchase of conservation land with this funding source.

Mr. Lynch mentioned a photography contest that individuals or the commission can enter. It runs until the end of September.

Ms. Cozzens said that there is a property on Main Street that is currently a B&B but they are looking to have wedding events held there. She noted that the rear of the land extends to Cedar Swamp. The events would be held in the back of the property, but this is a difficult location for parking and traffic. The owner might have to go to the ZBA first and then to the Planning Board.

Mr. Lovell made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Ungerer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting 8/16/23

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Theriault, Recording Secretary